

REMARKS

Claim Amendments

Claims 10, 23, 28, 32 and 33 have been amended.

Claims 10, 23 and 32 have been amended to recite that an array of diverse small ligand molecules or polymers is prepared on the same surface of a substrate. Support for the amendment can be found, for example, at page 7, lines 8-15.

Claim 28 has been amended to recite dimethoxytrityl instead of DMT. Support for the amendment can be found at page 4, line 19.

Claim 33 has been amended to have antecedent basis in claim 32.

The claims have also been amended to consistently use the term "support" instead of "substrate."

No new matter has been added.

Information Disclosure Statement

The Examiner states that reference AP, WO 93/04145, which was submitted in the Information Disclosure Statement filed October 17, 2003, fails to comply with 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(3) because it does not include a concise explanation of the relevance of a patent that is not in the English language. Applicants respectfully disagree. An English language abstract appears on the first page of reference AP, such that it is in compliance with the concise explanation requirement. Consideration of reference AP is respectfully requested.

The Examiner states that no dates of publication are provided for references AZ2 and AR3. Applicants note that these references were cited by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office in parent Application No. 09/102,986, and no publication dates were provided on the accompanying Form PTO-892. As such, Applicants are unable to provide a publication date because of the deficiency in the Form PTO-892 and the lack of publication dates on the face of both references. Because the Examiner has considered these references and because Applicants

have supplied all available bibliographic information about the references, the Examiner is respectfully requested to return a copy of the Information Disclosure Statement filed October 17, 2003 initialed to indicate that these references were considered.

Rejection of Claims 28, 29, 32 and 33 Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, Second Paragraph

Claims 28, 29, 32 and 33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as allegedly indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

The Examiner states the term “DMT” in claim 28 is an abbreviation that should be spelled out. Claim 28 has been amended accordingly.

The Examiner states that the recitation of “the selected regions” in claim 32 has insufficient antecedent basis. Applicants assume that the Examiner was referring to claim 33. Claim 33 has been amended to have antecedent basis in claims 23 and 32.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

Rejection of Claims 23-29 and 31-34 Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 23-29 and 31-34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly obvious over any of Kumar (Tetrahedron Letters, 32(7):967-970, 1991), Salo 1 (Collect. Czech. Chem. Commun., 61, 1991) or Salo 2 (Bioconjugate Chem., 9(3):365-371, 1998) in view of Lockhart (U.S. Patent No. 5,556,752). The Examiner acknowledges that none of Kumar, Salo 1 and Salo 2 discloses an array of diverse polymers on a substrate or photolabile protecting groups. The Examiner relies on Lockhart for teachings regarding arrays of oligonucleotides and photolabile groups.

Claims 10 and 23, the only pending independent claims, have been amended to recite that an array of diverse small ligand molecules or polymers is prepared on the same surface of a support (as opposed to physically separated surfaces, see page 7, lines 8-15 of the specification). Lockhart teaches the use of cleavable linker groups only in conjunction with pin-based synthetic methods (see column 15, lines 15-17). Lockhart has no other teaching or suggestion regarding

cleavable linker groups. Pin-based synthetic methods use a support where only one polymer species is produced per surface, in contrast to the instantly claimed method. An illustration of a substrate suitable for pin-based methods is shown in Fig. 1 of U.S. Patent No. 5,288,514, which was incorporated by reference by Lockhart (copy attached hereto as "Exhibit A"). While a support as a whole may include more than one polymer species, the different species are located on different pins, and, by extension, different surfaces. Thus, Lockhart does not teach or otherwise suggest preparing an array of diverse small ligand molecules or polymers, where the diverse polymers are located together on the same surface of a substrate. Thus, even in conjunction with cleavable linker groups, such as those taught by Kumar, Salo 1 and Salo 2, the art of record does not teach every element of the claimed method as amended.

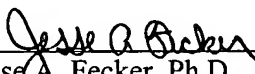
CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants believe the pending application is in condition for allowance.

Applicants believe no fee is due with this response, aside from the fee associated with the Petition for Extension of Time. However, if an additional fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 18-1945, from which the undersigned is authorized to draw, under Order No. AFMX-P02-040.

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Respectfully submitted,

By 
Jesse A. Fecker, Ph.D.
Registration No.: 52,883
ROPES & GRAY LLP
One International Place
Boston, Massachusetts 02110-2624
(617) 951-7000
(617) 951-7050 (Fax)
Attorneys/Agents For Applicant